

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The charging device according to claim 1,~~ A charging device for use in an image forming apparatus, comprising:
a discharging electrode to be supplied with a high voltage;
a stabilizer plate having an opening on a side to be opposed to a charge target member and accommodating said discharging electrode; and
a grid arranged in said opening of said stabilizer plate and to be supplied with a grid voltage, wherein
at least one of said discharging electrode, said stabilizer plate and said grid is made of an electrically conductive material containing 30 % or more of nickel by weight, wherein and
said conductive material is an alloy containing nickel and iron.
3. (Currently Amended) The charging device according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein said conductive material has a nickel content of 40 wt % or more.
4. (Currently Amended) The charging device according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein said conductive material has a Young's modulus of 110 KN/mm² or more.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~The charging device according to claim 1~~ A charging device for use in an image forming apparatus, comprising:
a discharging electrode to be supplied with a high voltage;
a stabilizer plate having an opening on a side to be opposed to a charge target member and accommodating said discharging electrode; and

a grid arranged in said opening of said stabilizer plate and to be supplied with a grid voltage, wherein

at least one of said discharging electrode, said stabilizer plate and said grid is made of an electrically conductive material containing 30 % or more of nickel by weight, wherein and

said grid and said stabilizer plate are to have same potential, and the grid is made of the conductive material containing 30 % or more of nickel by weight.

6. (Original) The charging device according to claim 2, wherein said conductive material further includes chromium.

7. (Original) The charging device according to claim 4, wherein said conductive material has a Young's modulus from 110 KN/mm² to 240 KN/mm².

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The charging device according to claim 8~~ A charging device for use in an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a discharging electrode to be supplied with a high voltage;

a stabilizer plate having an opening on a side to be opposed to a charge target member and accommodating said discharging electrode; and

a grid arranged in said opening of said stabilizer plate and to be supplied with a grid voltage, wherein

at least one member of said discharging electrode, said stabilizer plate and said grid is plated with nickel or platinum at a rate from 30 % to 80 % by weight with respect to whole weight of the plated member, wherein and

a base body of said plated member is made of an alloy containing nickel and iron.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The charging device according to claim 8~~ A charging device for use in an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a discharging electrode to be supplied with a high voltage;
a stabilizer plate having an opening on a side to be opposed to a charge target member and
accommodating said discharging electrode; and
a grid arranged in said opening of said stabilizer plate and to be supplied with a grid voltage,
wherein

at least one member of said discharging electrode, said stabilizer plate and said grid is plated
with nickel or platinum at a rate from 30 % to 80 % by weight with respect to whole weight of the
plated member, wherein and

said grid and said stabilizer plate are to have same potential, and a base body of the grid is plated with nickel or platinum at a rate from 30 % to 80 % by weight with respect to whole weight of the plated grid.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The image forming apparatus to claim 11~~ An image forming apparatus comprising an image carrying member, a discharging device for charging said image carrying member, an exposing device for exposing a charged surface of the image carrying member to form an electrostatic latent image, and a developing device for developing said electrostatic latent image with developer, wherein

said charging device includes:

a discharging electrode extending over a length corresponding to a size of the image carrying member and to be supplied with a high voltage,

a stabilizer plate having an opening on a side opposed to the image carrying member and accommodating the discharging electrode, and

a grid arranged in said opening of said stabilizer plate and to be supplied with a grid voltage,
at least one of said discharging electrode, said stabilizer plate and said grid is made of an electrically conductive material containing 30 % or more of nickel by weight, wherein and
said conductive material is an alloy containing nickel and iron.

13. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim ~~[[11]]~~ 12, wherein

said conductive material has a nickel content of 40 wt % or more.

14. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim ~~[[11]]~~ 12, wherein

said conductive material has a Young's modulus of 110 KN/mm² or more.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The image forming apparatus according to claim 11~~ An image forming apparatus comprising an image carrying member, a discharging device for charging said image carrying member, an exposing device for exposing a charged surface of the image carrying member to form an electrostatic latent image, and a developing device for developing said electrostatic latent image with developer, wherein

said charging device includes:

a discharging electrode extending over a length corresponding to a size of the image carrying member and to be supplied with a high voltage,

a stabilizer plate having an opening on a side opposed to the image carrying member and accommodating the discharging electrode, and

a grid arranged in said opening of said stabilizer plate and to be supplied with a grid voltage, at least one of said discharging electrode, said stabilizer plate and said grid is made of an electrically conductive material containing 30 % or more of nickel by weight, wherein and

said grid and said stabilizer plate are to have same potential, and a base body of the grid is made of a conductive material containing 30 % or more of nickel by weight.

16. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said conductive material further includes chromium.

17. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said conductive material has a Young's modulus from 110 KN/mm² to 240 KN/mm².

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The image forming apparatus according to claim 18~~ An image forming apparatus comprising an image carrying member, a discharging device for charging said image carrying member, an exposing device for exposing a charged surface of the image carrying member to form an electrostatic latent image, and a developing device for developing said electrostatic latent image with developer, wherein

said charging device includes:

a discharging electrode extending over a length corresponding to a size of the image carrying member and to be supplied with a high voltage,

a stabilizer plate having an opening on a side opposed to the image carrying member and accommodating the discharging electrode, and

a grid arranged in said opening of said stabilizer plate and to be supplied with a grid voltage, at least one member of said discharging electrode, said stabilizer plate and said grid is plated with nickel or platinum at a rate from 30 % to 80 % by weight with respect to whole weight of the plated member, wherein and

a base body of said plated member is made of an alloy containing nickel and iron.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The image forming apparatus according to claim 18~~ An image forming apparatus comprising an image carrying member, a discharging device for charging said image carrying member, an exposing device for exposing a charged surface of the image carrying member to form an electrostatic latent image, and a developing device for developing said electrostatic latent image with developer, wherein

said charging device includes:

a discharging electrode extending over a length corresponding to a size of the image carrying member and to be supplied with a high voltage,

a stabilizer plate having an opening on a side opposed to the image carrying member and accommodating the discharging electrode, and

a grid arranged in said opening of said stabilizer plate and to be supplied with a grid voltage,
at least one member of said discharging electrode, said stabilizer plate and said grid is plated
with nickel or platinum at a rate from 30 % to 80 % by weight with respect to whole weight of the
plated member, wherein and

said grid and said stabilizer plate are to have same potential, and a base body of the grid is plated with nickel or platinum at a rate from 30 % to 80 % by weight with respect to whole weight of the plated grid.